

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9862

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05210

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: UK, MT, PFOR

SUBJECT: MINTOFF'S VISIT TO THE UK, APRIL 24-26

REF: LONDON 5124

1. GOODISON, HEAD, SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DEPT, FCO, HAS
GIVEN US FOLLOWING FOOTNOTES TO MINTOFF'S VISIT TO UK
LAST WEEK.

2. MINTOFF HAD BEEN RELAXED AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS
VISIT ABOUT THE UK DEFENSE REVIEW AND ITS IMPLICATIONS
FOR MALTA. GOODISON CONFIRMED THAT MINTOFF DID NOT
RAISE THE MATTER WITH EITHER THE PRIME MINISTER OR
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FOREIGN SECRETARY. HOWEVER, HE WAS APPARENTLY SO NAGGED
BY PRESS REPORTS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF SUBSTANTIAL

BRITISH FORCE REDUCTIONS OUTSIDE OF EUROPE THAT HE RAISED THE MATTER WITH WEDGWOOD BENN WHOM HE SAW APRIL 27. GOODISON SAID WEDGWOOD BENN GAVE MINTOFF THE STANDARD MINISTERIAL REPLY, I.E., THAT THE DEFENSE REVIEW WAS STILL IN PROGRESS BUT NO CONCLUSIONS HAD BEEN REACHED AND THAT BEFORE BRITISH TOOK ANY DECISIONS WHICH WOULD AFFECT OTHER COUNTRIES THEY WOULD ENGAGE IN CONSULTATIONS. GOODISON SAID MINTOFF SEEMED REASSURED BY WEDGWOOD BENN'S REPLY, AND GOODISON NOTED THAT ON HIS RETURN TO MALTA, MINTOFF HAD MADE A "SOOTHING STATEMENT" ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE UK DEFENSE REVIEW FOR MALTA.

3. DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH WEDGWOOD BENN, MINTOFF ALSO DISCUSSED HIS HOPE THAT BRITISH WOULD INVEST SUBSTANTIALLY IN MALTESE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. ANNENBERG

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